

# Drive with Blue

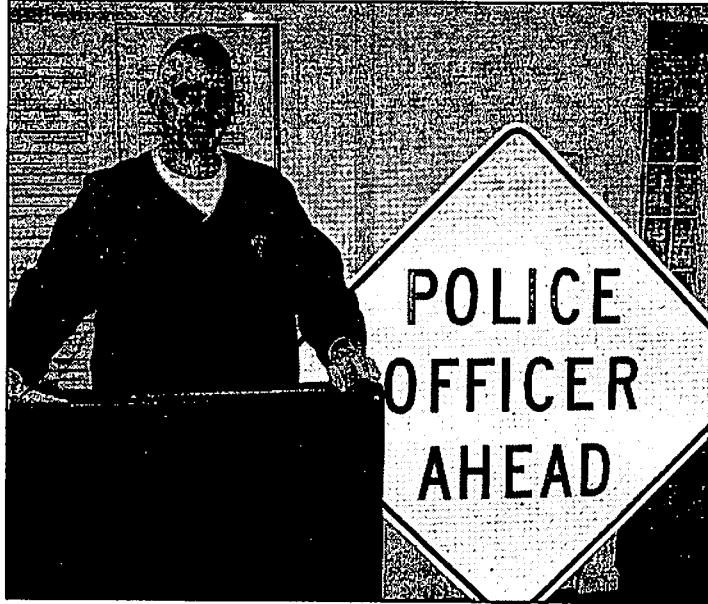
## Locals hope to bring law enforcement perspective

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Who better to teach the rules of the road than those who enforce them?

That's the philosophy behind Blue Driving Academy, a new driving school run by Duxbury resident Dan Eaton. The school will bring state and local police officers into the classroom to give students the best chance to stay safe on the highways.

Eaton has been a state trooper for 18 years. As part of his job, he gives CDL exams for truck drivers. He's also experienced with military transportation from his time in the service. As a result, he's seen a lot of what people should and shouldn't do on the road.



Dan Eaton stands in the classroom of what will be the Blue Driving Academy, a driving school staffed by state and local police.

"Just when you think you've seen it all," Eaton said, shaking his head.

The school aims to do more than just teach students enough to pass their drivers test. The instructors at Blue Driving Academy want to put good drivers on the road.

"Our goal is to ensure that each student has the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to obtain their Massachusetts Driver's License and become safe, responsible drivers," reads a statement from the school's Web site.

Eaton feels that the combined expertise of himself, another state trooper who is retired with 25 years of experience, and several members of the Duxbury Police Department will help prepare students for the challenges of the open road.

The school will use SUVs for all its driving, which serves a dual purpose. Eaton pointed out that many driving schools use smaller sedans for their

road work, but then many Duxbury teens get their license and hop behind the wheel of their family's larger car.

Another perk to the SUVs is that they will be used as part of a "confidence course," a driving skills track located at Plympton Sand and Gravel. The course will include maneuvering challenges and obstacles (cones) that must be avoided using only mirrors — all designed to build the confidence of young drivers.

"It will emphasize hand-eye coordination and the depth perception of their vehicles," Eaton said.

With the new legislation banning texting while driving and cell phone use for teenagers, driver distraction is in the news more than ever. When asked what the single biggest problem he sees out on the highway, Eaton said it's people not paying attention.

"People not being aware of their total surroundings," he said.

The school will be up and running by mid-November, and the course involves 30-hours of classroom instruction, 12 hours of behind-the-wheel driving time, six hours of observation and a two hour parent class.

Blue Driving Academy will be holding an open house on Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 6-8 p.m. in the school's offices at Island Creek, 20 Tremont Street, Building 9, Suite 17.